

Rural Sanitary Privies

It is not our purpose in issuing this pamphlet to set up standards for sanitation in any of the Southern States, as this duty belongs to the State Board of Health in each state. What we are trying to do is to get every community where a Rosenwald school is built in touch with the State Board of Health through the County Superintendents and State Department of Education in every state through which we cooperate. If, however, the state plans for sanitary privies are not available, one of the three types shown in pamphlet No. 15 should be selected and built. This office will furnish blue prints, etc., through the various State Departments of Education on request.

Every school receiving aid from The Julius Rosenwald Fund is required to have two sanitary privies built on a plan approved by the State Board of Health of that state for that particular section in which the building is erected. These should be located a safe distance from the schoolhouse and sufficiently far from the water supply to eliminate any possible danger of contamination through soil pollution and improper up-keep. They should be painted in keeping with the school and properly screened from view. Final payment on the building will be withheld by the State Department of Education until the community meets this part of the agreement. Every teachers' home should have at least one sanitary privy; the larger houses should each have two.

No one type of rural privy is considered suitable for all sections of a state, owing to certain geological variations. It would, therefore, be unwise to suggest a type that would be sanitary for all states in the South through which The Fund operates. The only safe method is to consult the Director of Sanitation of the State Board of Health, giving him the necessary information as to the county in which the school is located, the character and slope of the land, and the number of pupils in the school. He will, doubtless, supply a blue print of the plan to use, accompanied by a bulletin and necessary details to enable any carpenter to construct a sanitary privy at a reasonable cost.

The three types most commonly used in the South are:

1. The Pit Type, made fly-proof, for areas where the distance to rock in horizontal strata formation is generally not nearer than 10 feet of the surface, and located so that the adjacent water supplies are not menaced.
2. The Concrete Septic Tank Type, where the Pit Type is not safe; i. e., where the soil is too shallow and the water supply would be in danger of pollution. This type is more expensive than the Pit, but is generally considered more sanitary if properly cared for.
3. The Concrete Vault Type, or removable water-tight receptacle, for localities where neither the Pit nor the Septic Tank is considered safe. This type will have to be emptied at regular intervals.

In making the privy house at least one seat should be made low enough for the small children. The number of seats necessary in a privy will depend on the number of children in school—generally one seat for every fifteen to twenty children is satisfactory.